

# CITY COUNCIL BRIEFS

**Torrance City Council**  
December 7, 1954

Councilmen present: Victor E. Benstead Jr., Willys G. Blount, Albert Isen, Merwin M. Schwab, and Mayor Nicholas O. Dral. Others present: City Manager George Stevens, City Attorney James M. Hall, City Clerk A. H. Bartlett, City Engineer Ronald W. Bishop, Fire Chief J. J. Benner, Water Superintendent Angus McVicar, and Police Chief Willard H. Haslam.

**Bids for purchase of \$450,000** in Torrance Municipal Improvement Bonds, voted last spring, to finance construction of a new central fire station and for park and playground development, opened and referred to Senior Auditor I. J. Hallanger for checking. The bid of the American Trust Co., which was calculated to have an interest rate of 6 per cent on the first \$105,000, 2½ per cent on the next \$240,000, and 2 per cent on the \$105,000 balance, was accepted and other bids rejected.

Water Superintendent McVicar reported to the Council that he had held up switching of Arlington Plaza homes to Torrance Municipal Water District service until an official "hold harmless" agreement had been reached between city and the Moneta Water Co. which now services the area. McVicar said he could switch over the water service in one day but that he needed the cooperation of the Moneta company to do so. An attempt to reach an agreement will be made this week and a report due next week at the Council meeting. Moneta's attorney, John McCall, is to be invited to attend the Dec. 14 Council meeting to discuss the matter with the Council.

Water Superintendent McVicar authorized to proceed with the installation of a 10-inch main to the airport industrial tract to meet underwriters requirements for automatic sprinkler systems proposed for the new industries planned there. The industries will be asked to pay the difference between normal installation and the larger main.

A petition demanding that the city abandon diagonal parking on Crenshaw Blvd. between 174th St. and 171st St. submitted over the signatures of 27 persons residing in the area. John McWren, of 17217 Crenshaw Blvd., spoke on behalf of the petitioners, charging that "someone got to someone" when the diagonal parking was permitted in front of business establishments in the area. Chief Haslam clarified the dispute as a neighborhood feud.

Claim of Mary Jo Mott for damages while riding as passenger in automobile at dead end Maple St. north of Maricopa Ave. denied. Claim was for \$21,000.

Recommendation of the Torrance Recreation Commission with reference to the recommended rezoning of Torrance Beach referred to the Planning Commission for their study and a recommendation.

Letter from Mrs. May Truall suggesting the city help with provision of parking space for city employees filed as a matter of record with the notation that City Manager Stevens has the problem under study.

Recommendations from the Recreation Commission and Recreation Director Harry Van Belshem on acquisition of a park site in the new Kauffman Tract No. 19108 submitted to the Council. City Manager authorized to proceed with negotiations for the site.

Letter from W. P. Fitzgerald, manager of the John Wiley Jones Co. operations here, read indicating that the company would move its chlorine bottling operation out of the city shortly after the first of the year. His letter followed by report from Fire Chief J. J. Benner stating that the company had been the subject of recent complaints and recommending that its request to stay in Torrance be denied.

Request of James Crawford, leasee on the golf driving range at Torrance Municipal Airport, for permission to sublease a portion of his property during the Christmas season to sell Christmas trees approved.

Request of James Crawford for permission to erect a Coca Cola sign at Crenshaw and Pacific Coast Hwy. referred to the Planning Commission for a recommendation.

Request of Boy Scout Troop 219 for waiver of Christmas tree license fee for their lot at 8128 Pacific Coast Hwy. approved.

Request of Hope Evangelical United Brethren Church for waiver of Christmas tree license fee for lot at 3847 W. 174th St. approved.

Recommendation of City Manager Stevens that Margaret K. Beavers be appointed to serve probationary period as clerk-stenographer approved.

Recommendation of City Manager Stevens that the Council appropriate \$957 for the purchase of two police radios to equip its two motorbikes approved.

Recommendation of City Engineer Bishop regarding releasing of subdivision improvement bonds on various tracts approved.

Fiscal Tract Map 17856 calling for construction of seven homes on 166th St. in North Torrance approved.

Tentative Tract Map 18379 submitted by the Don-Ja-Ran Co. denied on the recommendation of the Planning Commission as the map did not make adequate provision for school sites.

Tentative Tract Map 20772 submitted by Ellinwood Corp. denied on the recommendation of the Planning Commission as the map did not make adequate provisions for park sites.

Resolution 2657 authorizing mayor and city clerk to execute and sign quitclaim deed to Remco-Real Estate Management Co. adopted.

Resolution 2658 setting Dec. 15 as Safe Driving Day adopted.

Resolution 2659 amending the language in Resolution 2344 with reference to terminology of the city's business license ordinance adopted.

Resolution 2660 adding a "hold harmless" clause to the agreement with Moneta Water Co. adopted.

City Manager Stevens reported hearings had been set inadvocently for 8 p.m. on Dec. 21, a date the Council is scheduled to meet at 5:30 p.m. Members of the Council indicated that they would be present for the 8 p.m. business.

City Manager Stevens recommended that the low bid of R. E. Payne be accepted for construction of the new Central Fire Station in Torrance and that alternate calling for paving of the yard and installation of plate glass in the building be included in the contract.

City Manager Stevens reported that parking meter installation crews had "picked up" 35 additional parking spaces in the downtown area during their work this week and asked for the authority to install 448 parking meters instead of the original 400. Council authorized the addition.

At the recommendation of the

**Elephant Due At Waltheria Kids' Party**

The Annual Kiddies Christmas Party sponsored by the Waltheria Businessmen's Club will be held at the recreation park in Waltheria Friday evening, Dec. 17, beginning at 7 o'clock. It was announced yesterday by Committee Chairman James Whitmer.

Treats for the Waltheria youngsters attending the annual holiday affair will include the appearance of an elephant, a pony and a dog act. Whitmer said. Santa Claus is scheduled to make an appearance during the evening also, he reported.

**Gas Company Official Ends New York Visit**

L. E. Green, southwest division manager of the Southern California Gas Co., is due to return home today from New York, where he has been attending an exposition of electronic business and calculating machines.

As a representative of the customers' department of the company, Green saw advancements in electronic accounting.

City Manager, the Council declared an indefinite moratorium on leases of Pacific Coast Hwy. and Crenshaw Blvd. frontage on Torrance Municipal Airport.

Council authorized City Manager to place the city's insurance with Pacific Indemnity at the same rate charged during past two years. City Manager Stevens commented that the rate remained unchanged despite the city's phenomenal growth and increased risk.

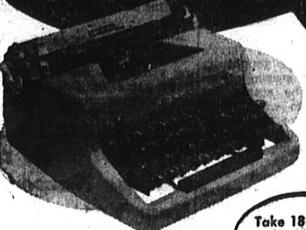
Council approved City Manager's recommendation that the city offices be closed down on the Friday before Christmas and that the city crews be split between Friday and Monday during the New Year's Day holiday.

A map showing an area of approximately 1800 acres of Palos Verdes peninsula which will eventually contain about 3000 new homes was presented to the City Council by the City Manager as a new proposal of the developer of the grossed of the area would include residential and commercial areas.

A report on progress of sidewalks and curbs on 208rd St. east of Crenshaw Blvd. requested from City Engineer for next meeting.

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